

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USAN 09/993,623**

A²
of the shaft 6 for supplying electric current to the rotor 7; a pair of brushes 10 which slide on surfaces of the slip rings 9; wires 17 each having an end portion connected to these brushes 10; springs 16 for pressing the brushes 10 toward the slip rings 9; a brush holding assembly 61 having a holding portion 64a for housing the brushes 10 and a cover 64b removably disposed on a head portion of the holding portion 64a; a rectifier 12 which is electrically connected to the stator 8 for converting alternating current generated in the stator 8 into direct current; a regulator 13 secured to the brush holding assembly 61 for adjusting the magnitude of an alternating voltage generated in the stator 8; and a cooling plate 14 placed in contact with and secured to the regulator 13 to dissipate and cool heat generated in the regulator 13.

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A³
In the automotive alternator of the above construction, because the open portion 50 is formed in the position on the case 33 facing the cover 64b of the brush holding assembly 61, replacement of the brushes 10 may be performed simply by removing the cover 64b and the screws secured in the screw apertures 53 from the brush holding assembly 61, and there is no necessity to go to the trouble of disassembling the alternator. Also, because a connection portion connecting the holding assembly terminals 63 of the brush holding assembly 61 and the brush terminals 62 is disposed in the open portion 50, whereby the open portion 50 forms a space for the connection operation, therefore, connection of the holding assembly terminals 63 and the brush terminals 62 can be performed easily.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 3 and 8 are amended as follows:

- A⁴
1. An alternator comprising:
a case;
a shaft passing through said case;
a rotor secured to said shaft, said rotor including a rotor coil for generating a magnetic flux on passage of an electric current therethrough, and a plurality of claw-shaped